



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07704.0001-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
 Luigi FORLAI) Group Art Unit: 3624
)
 Application No.: 09/609,142) Examiner: Narayanswamy Subramanian
)
 Filed: June 30, 2000)
)
 For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR) Confirmation No.: 2446
 GENERATING A SALE OFFER)
 OVER AN ELECTRONIC)
 NETWORK SYSTEM)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated July 6, 2005, the non-fee period for response to which extending through August 8, 2005 (August 6th being a Saturday), please issue an Office Action on the merits in accordance with the following election of species.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I - claims 1, 62-72, and 75-96; and
- Group II - claims 2-8 and 10-15.

If Applicant elects the claims of Group I, the Examiner required an additional restriction to one of six allegedly distinct species of the claimed invention. Specifically,

the Examiner indicated that independent claims 69, 83, and 90 are generic to the following groups of claims:

- Species IA1 - claim 63;
- Species IA2 - claim 64;
- Species IA3 - claims 65-67, 84, 85, 91, and 92;
- Species IB1 - claims 70, 86, 87, 93, and 94;
- Species IB2 - claims 71, 88, and 95; and
- Species IB3 - claims 72, 89, and 96.

Alternatively, if Applicant elects the claims of Group II, the Examiner required an additional restriction to one of seven allegedly distinct species of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that independent claim 2 is generic to the following groups of claims:

- Species IIA1 - claim 3;
- Species IIA2 - claim 4;
- Species IIA3 - claims 5 and 6;
- Species IIB1 - claim 11;
- Species IIB2 - claim 12;
- Species IIB3 - claim 13; and
- Species IIB4 - claim 14.

Although claims 68, 74-82, and 87 are currently pending, the Office Action did not identify these claims as being subject to this restriction requirement.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute the claims of Group IA3 (i.e., claims 65-67, 84, 85, 91, 92, generic claims 69,

83, and 90, and pending claims 68, 82, and 87) for prosecution. Applicant respectfully requests appropriate rejoinder and examination of any withdrawn claims in the event the Examiner determines that a generic claim is allowable.

Additionally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicant's representatives at (202) 408-6052 if it would serve to further expedite the prosecution of this application and, thereby, minimize time and expense.

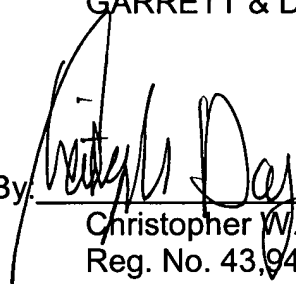
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 8, 2005

By.



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Reg. No. 43,944